(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any precautionary measures in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the major trading blocks viz. the European Union has imposed a ban on international sale of all meat products of British cattle.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Import of tallow, fat/oils etc. of any animal origin are not permitted and have been classified as prohibited items in the Negative List of imports under the Export and Import Policy. In view of the incidence of *Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy* (BSE) in UK and other countries, government has taken further measures to restrict import of products/items so as to ensure that they originate only from healthy animals free from BSE.

Amendment in the Contempt of Court Act, 1971

4442. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 so as to allow criticism of judgements, judicial system and to make the system healthy and incorruptible;

(b) if so, the time by which such an amendment is expected to be introduced through a Bill in the Parliament; and

(c) if not, the other steps being taken to make the judicial system healthy and incorruptible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing laws are sufficient to make the judicial system healthy and incorruptible.

EURO/GDR Issues

4443. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total receipts (in rupees as well as dollars) by Indian Companies from participation in Euro issues and GDRs flotation during the last three years;

(b) the average rate of interest attached to such issues;

(c) whether the realisation from Euro issues and GDRs are being increasingly used to retire domestic borrowing which bear a substantially higher rate of interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The amount raised by Indian Companies through Euro Issues Global Depositary Receipt (GDR) and Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) in dollars and rupee equivalent during the last three years have been as follows:

Years	Amount in US $ million	Equivalent in Rs. crores
1993-94	2500.00 + S.Fr.20 million	7868.00
1994-95	1991.63	6248.16
1995-96	616.25	2156.88

(b) In terms of the Euro issue Guidelines dated 19.6.96, the all-in costs for FCCBs should be significantly better than the corresponding debt instruments (ECBs). Interest rates on US dollars denominated FCCBs issued by Indian Companies have ragged between 2.25% to 7.8%.

(c) and (d). As per the Government of India guidelines dated 19.6.96 for Euro issues, the companies can utilise upto 25% of the Euro issue proceeds for general corporate restructuring including working capital requirements, which also covers retirement of high cost domestic borrowings.

Public Interest Petitions

4444. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure for submitting a public interest petition and the basis on which it is admitted by the court;

(b) the number of public interest petitions received by various courts of the country during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of petitions admitted and judgements given by the courts on these petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGILSATIVE DEPARTMENT AND